THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An integrated software system for intellectual property management programmed to perform the following functions:

   (a) accept input relating to one or more of the following areas: IP mapping-tracking; IP strategy-tracking; IP generation-tracking; IP documentation-tracking; IP review board-tracking; and IP application-tracking;

   (b) store the input in one or more data files;

   (c) provide output indicative of the stored data.

2. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP mapping-tracking component programmed to track opportunity areas in which inventions are desired.

3. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP mapping-tracking component programmed to:

   (a) utilize input words and phrases descriptive of a market area or technology areas;

   (b) search databases, such as patent and literature databases; and

   (c) provide an output which characterizes inventive and research activity in the area.

4. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP strategy-tracking component programmed to track invention strategy.

5. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP strategy-tracking component, which:

   (a) uses product and technology output from an IP mapping method as input; and

   (b) produces output comprising problems and elements for use as input in an IP generation component.

6. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP generation-tracking component programmed to track creation of new inventions.

7.   The system of claim 1 comprising an IP generation-tracking component programmed to provide output suitable for use as input into an IP documentation component.

8.   The system of claim 1 comprising an IP documentation-tracking component programmed to track invention documentation.

5   9.   The system of claim 1 comprising an IP review board-tracking component programmed to track the schedule and results of an invention review board.

10.   The system of claim 1 comprising an IP application filing-tracking component programmed to track patent application filing data and optionally tracks patent prosecution data.

11.   The system of claim 1 comprising an IP application filing-tracking component programmed to:

10   (a)   capture output from an IP generation method component; and

(b)   yield invention disclosure output suitable for use as input in an IP review board-tracking component of the invention.

12.   The system of claim 1 comprising an IP review board-tracking component programmed to accept input assigning a disposition to an invention tracked by the system.

15   13.   The system of claim 1 wherein the input includes data selected from the group consisting of: invention identification number; technology area; product area; company name; company site; invention title; inventor; manager of inventor; bar date; comments; technology name; product name; problem; elements/methods; IP scanning session name; IP scanning session date; IOD™ session name; IOD™ session date; pre-existing invention; client tracking number; company 20   disclosure number; disclosure writer; IP manager; additional inventorship information; inventor interview date; idea withdrawal date; first draft completion date; inventor's draft review date; disclosure submission date; invention review date; invention review attorney; disclosure rating; search sent date; search received date; attorney review complete date; final disposition; patent docket number; patent docket creation date; docket attorney; docket delivery date; application 25   filing date; notice of allowance date; patent issued date; date of expiration of patent term; docket closure date; and license value.